

STEWART'S HOSPITAL, EDINBURGH.

Or all the cities in the United Kingdom none are better supplied with charitable institutions, for educational purposes, than Edinburgh. Numerous as are these institutions, continual additions are being made to their number: but two years ago one was put in operation; the erection of which cost nearly 150,000*l.*; and now another is approaching completion, which, though of smaller extent, aims at an equal, if not greater, attempt at architectural effect.

This structure is raised from funds left for that purpose by the late Mr. Daniel Stewart, of the Exchequer. The style is Elizabethan, with a dash of the domestic castellated, but with none of the richness of detail generally found in the former, nor the picturesque effects of the latter: it bears aloft a multitude of little turrets and cupolas, which are presided over by two towers of larger dimensions, reminding one of a box of toys arranged by the hand of a child at play. It is surely the height of absurdity to apply what was intended as a means of warlike defence, to a structure the object of which is of so peaceful a description, the more especially as the turrets are neither in themselves beautiful, nor available as a means of outlook. There is, moreover, a want of connection in many parts of the edifice, the cupolas appearing as if they could be lifted off and on at pleasure. Strange that the designer of this structure (Mr. D. Rhind) should have been also the architect of one of the finest buildings that adorn our city: he seems to have so designed it out of rivalry to a recently constructed edifice in a similar style (Donaldson's Hospital), and certainly he has avoided its greatest fault—want of projections, and consequent absence of light and shade, but in attempting to avoid a lesser he falls into a greater error.

In the immediate vicinity of the pile above referred to is another institution of a similar nature, with a frontage of two stories in height, and about 140 feet broad, with a Doric portico of six columns in the centre, suggesting the idea of barracks adorned with the spoils of a Grecian temple. Opposite this, again, is another, very beautiful in design, but disfigured with make-shifts for chimney, but the spectator is supposed not to see them.

Elizabethan seems now to be the prevailing style in Edinburgh, and should it continue so, it will hardly be entitled to the name of the "Modern Athens," but must revert to the more ancient title of

DUN EDIN.

ANTIQUARIAN MATTERS.

Malton.—The excavations near Malton, in constructing the Thirsk and Malton Railway, have disclosed several antiquities of interest. The workmen lately came upon a rough flat stone, on raising which they discovered a cavity, 4 or 5 feet deep, of irregular shape, and much obstructed with rubbish. This is believed to have formed part of the subterranean passage which (tradition asserts) existed between the ancient castle and old Malton Abbey, about half a mile distant. It is intended, we understand, to have this passage cleared out, and its extent determined. The foundations of ancient buildings have been laid bare, and the remains of fires extinct for centuries. Coins, skeletons, &c. have also been found.

Athens.—Baron A. de Humboldt, says a Berlin journal, has announced the discovery at Athens of the edifice in which the Council of Four Hundred was accustomed to assemble. Upwards of 100 inscriptions have already been brought to light, as well as a number of columns, statues, &c.

Mount Zaharah.—There exists on Mount Zaharah, in an island of the Red Sea, an emerald mine, which the Pacha of Egypt has for a long time wished to work, and which had been abandoned in the latter end of Mehemet Ali's reign. A British Company lately solicited and obtained permission to re-commence the works. In executing some operations lately, Mr. Allan, the Company's engineer, discovered, at a great depth, a gallery of the mine, containing signs of the most ancient mining. He discovered in the gallery ancient tools and utensils, and a stone on

which were engraved hieroglyphic characters in a great measure erased. The nature and form of the tools, utensils, and gallery prove that the ancient Egyptians had made great progress in engineering. It would appear, on studying the stone, that the date of the mine goes back as far as about 1650 years B.C.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.

THE Society are carrying out in an admirable manner the idea of Prince Albert, that a series of lectures should be delivered on the Great Exhibition at the Society's Rooms, Adelphi. In pursuance of their arrangements, which comprise a list of first-rate lecturers, Dr. Whewell, on Wednesday evening, delivered an eloquent and excellent discourse on the general bearing of the Exhibition on the progress of art and science, in course of which he expatiated on the unexampled opportunity which it afforded to even the poorest or most sedentary and home-fixed spectator of surveying the whole world's treasures of industry and art, beauty and utility, excellence and luxury.—an opportunity such as never was offered before to any man, either actual or imaginary, except, perhaps, to the latter in some "Arabian Night's Entertainment," of which this may well constitute the thousand and second series of marvels. Without such an opportunity, pursued the speaker, "what time, labour, and perseverance would he have required—what hardships to undergo—what access to great and powerful men—in the accomplishment of such a survey. A life would scarcely have sufficed, with all the appliances and means which wealth and power could give. Like the philosophers of ancient days, he would have had to spend all his years in travel, and yet, after all, how far would such a survey fall short of the simultaneous view afforded by the Exhibition; while, at the same time, but one individual could profit, even from such an undertaking as they had imagined. Here, at one view, they had placed before them the choicest productions of human art in all nations and in all stages of progress, from barbarism to the highest civilisation." The advantage of obtaining a permanent classification of all the objects of men's skill and industry, he afterwards remarked, "were very great, as it gave the manufacturer, the man of science, the producer, and the artisan, a settled common language, in which they might speak of the objects with which they were connected."

PITT'S SELF-ADJUSTING LOCK FURNITURE.

MOST of our readers must have noticed Messrs. Hart's often-repeated advertisement of this patent, and many have tried it. It may nevertheless be useful to some to say that we have had some of the lock furniture in use now for a considerable time, and find it all that can be desired. The improvements in it upon other methods of mounting and fixing door furniture consist in this,—that the spindles are not fastened to the knobs, but drift loosely in them, and will therefore adjust themselves to doors of different thicknesses without alteration, and the objectionable side screw in the neck of the knob is not required. The mountings by which the knobs are secured to the door form bearings for each knob, and consequently there is less friction on the follower: the action also is more pleasant than with ordinary mountings, and that disfigurement of the door which frequently occurs when the common rosette is used, is avoided.

As a mounting, it is certainly superior to any other kind of spindle. The difficulty that the makers have to contend with is price, as these are necessarily somewhat dearer where plain china or hard wood furniture is used than common mountings, but there is little or no increase where ornamental china or glass is desired. When specifications are made out, it is usually thought sufficient to state that china, glass, or hard wood furniture is to be provided, the architect forgetting what rubbish is to be obtained. Some china furniture is now being sold at a low price, that is, brass, but of such a quality that it would be

far more advantageous to the employer that the latter should be used.

So well do we think of the patent spindles, that we will go to the length of saying, that if architects were to provide in future specifications that the furniture should be "Pitt's patent," the increase of first expense on a house would be but nominal, while it would insure better fittings and the saving of much annoyance and outlay afterwards.

SITE FOR THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

AS to the adoption of the site of the cavalry barracks in Hyde-park, for the proposed new National Gallery, in a number of your very excellent periodical, you objected to this plan, on the score of its being too much exposed to the smoke of London. Now it strikes me there are some other serious objections against the scheme. The ground on which the barracks stand is lengthy enough, but it has no depth to allow of ornamental ground in front or rear. Shut up between two roads, the narrow side will be all that can be contrived to front London, which, to assume a dignified and appropriate character, it ought to face.

Walk a little farther (out of the smoke) to the north-west and you will find one of the finest positions which could be obtained near any capital in Europe: place it on the site of old Kensington Palace, looking down from the west through a vista or wide avenue of trees already prepared to the Serpentine, and across the park to Grosvenor-gate. Fill up that Dutch pond, and in its place make any kind of ornamental garden with terraces which may be thought requisite. Should funds allow, throw a bridge across the Serpentine and make a straight road through Hyde-park to Grosvenor-gate, where should be a handsome arch. On the site of the old palace there is space enough for any extent of building, with approaches ready made, and fitting opportunity of making any further number. Scarcely any trees need be cut down.

A LONDONER.

VALUE OF PROPERTY AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

RAILWAY COMPENSATION INQUIRY.

A FORTNIGHT ago an inquiry was opened before the acting under-sheriff and a special jury, to assess the compensation to be paid by the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway Company for 423 yards of freehold land, forming part of the site of Mr. Wm. Bailey's extensive chemical works in Horsley-fields, Wolverhampton; and also for 2,011 square yards of prebendal land adjoining the works, and running parallel with the intended goods station of the Stour Valley line.

Mr. Hornblower, architect, estimated the value of the 2,011 square yards of prebendal land at 50*l.* annual rental, and that Mr. Bailey's interest in it was worth about 124 years' purchase, taking into consideration the ages of the three lives, making its total value 620*l.* 15*s.* To this he added 33*l.* per cent. for compulsory sale, namely 206*l.* 15*s.*, making the total sum claimed for that piece of land 827*l.* 10*s.* For the purchase of 423 yards of freehold land, near the proposed tunnel, he allowed 211*l.* 10*s.*, to which he added 50 per cent. for compulsory sale, namely, 105*l.* 15*s.* He estimated the cost of taking down and rebuilding the hydramite manufactory, the shed, the smith's shops, the stores, with the whole of the plant therein, &c. at 450*l.* Earthwork to raise land in the present works so as to pass over the tunnel, 341*l.* 16*s.* Extra cost of foundations of buildings to be erected and of the retaining wall which would be required in present works, 404*l.* 15*s.* 9*d.* Extra cost of foundations to flues, stores, &c. 490*l.* Depreciated value of the whole works, 50*l.* per annum, which at 20 years' purchase amounted to 1,000*l.*, making a total sum in reference to the freehold land of 2,913*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.*, and this, added to the 827*l.* 10*s.* for the prebendal land, made the total amount of his valuation 3,741*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.*

Mr. G. Taylor, surveyor, on the same side, brought the value to 3,935*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.*

The jury returned a verdict for 1,705*l.* 4*s.*, assessing the compensation to be paid for the two pieces of land at 705*l.* 4*s.* and for the severance of the freehold, 1,000*l.*

The under-sheriff does not seem to be aware that we originally pointed out and have long advocated the adoption of this site.—Ed.